

Amendments to the Specification:

In the Specification, replace the third and fourth paragraph on page 11, with the following paragraphs:

The wild-type packaging signal of adenovirus serotype 5 is formed by at least seven functional units called A repeats, which are located between nt 230 and nt 380 of the genome. The A elements have the consensus sequence ATTTGN<sub>8</sub>GCCG (Schmid *et al*, 1977 *J. Virol.* 71:3375-3384, which is hereby incorporated by reference). The modified packaging signal of this invention preferably comprises less packaging elements than the wild-type (which has seven elements), preferably from about two to six elements, and more preferably from three to five elements. In a preferred embodiment, the modified packaging signal contains only four out of the seven original packaging elements (elements A1 to AIV). The four elements are preferably in a modified form with two strong elements (A1 and AII) present. The position of the elements relative to each other may be changed, but in preferred embodiments, it is maintained.

In order to reduce the contiguous sequence homology, the eight ambiguous nucleotides of the consensus sequence (ATTTGN<sub>8</sub>GCCG; SEQ ID NO:1) within each A element are preferably replaced by sequences taken from a different A element. For example, the eight nucleotides within A1 were replaced by those from AV; and the eight nucleotides within AII were replaced by those from AVI. In addition, a new element was created between AII and AIII starting 21 bp after AII, by changing the existing nucleotides to the consensus sequence. Two more nucleotides were exchanged within AIV: ATTTTGTT (SEQ ID NO:2) was changed to ATTTTGTTGT (SEQ ID NO:3). One embodiment of a synthetic packaging signal is given in SEQ ID NO:4.

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Amendments to the Sequence Listing:

Replace the paper copy and electronic version of the Sequence Listing with the copies provided herein with this response.